

Filed for intro on 02/06/97
HOUSE BILL 454 By
Brown

SENATE BILL 1491
By Crutchfield

AN ACT providing for directional signs on Interstate 124 in Hamilton County for the Chattanooga African American Museum.

WHEREAS, throughout its history as a nation, America and its culture have evolved and benefited from the countless contributions of a wide diversity of people hailing from a wide diversity of cultural backgrounds; and

WHEREAS, major contributions have been and continue to be made to the nation and its culture by its African American citizenry; and

WHEREAS, it is important to the education and personal development of African American youth, as well as all Tennessee youth, that special focus and awareness be given to the cultural contributions of African Americans in the performing arts, literature, science, economics, government, religion, and other disciplines; and

WHEREAS, the Chattanooga African American Museum, with support from various individuals in Chattanooga and Hamilton County, strives diligently to provide such focus and to increase such awareness through a variety of historical and ethnic displays designed to foster self-respect, self-esteem, appreciation, and pride for African American contributions; and

WHEREAS, it is only appropriate that the Department of Transportation should erect signs in Chattanooga directing visitors to this museum, which serves to educate all Tennesseans in African American history and culture and the contribution of African Americans to this great state; now, therefore,

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BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, it shall be the duty of the Department of Transportation to erect and maintain directional signs at sites and facilities of educational and cultural interest to the citizens of the state, including the erection of such signs for the Chattanooga African American Museum at the Martin Luther King Boulevard Exit on Interstate 124 Eastbound and Westbound in Hamilton County.

SECTION 2. The erection of such directional signs shall be within the guidelines prescribed by the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.

SECTION 3. This act shall become operative only if the federal highway administrator advises the Commissioner of Transportation in writing that the provisions of this act shall not render Tennessee in violation of federal laws and regulations and subject to penalties prescribed therein.

SECTION 4. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.